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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

PUBLIC **AI Index: ASA 21/18/99**

10 March 1999

Further information on UA 37/99 (ASA 21/11/99, 26 February 1999) - Fear of torture / Ill-treatment

EAST TIMOR **Eleven men (including Armindo da Costa, aged 18)**

Armindo da Costa is now believed to have been charged with murder in connection with the death of a pro-Indonesian paramilitary member, Joaniko Gomes, on 22 February 1999 and to have been appointed a lawyer. The ten others mentioned above were released earlier this month.

Armindo da Costa was arrested along with 18 others on 22 February - seven were released soon after for medical treatment - after a violent confrontation in the village of Vatuvou in Liquisa District between youths in support of East Timorese independence and members of a pro-Indonesian armed paramilitary group called *Besi Merah Putih* (literally "the iron red and white" - referring to the colours of the Indonesian flag). Joaniko Gomes, a member of *Besi Merah Putih* was killed during the confrontation and another member wounded. Four pro-independence youths were also wounded.

No more action is required. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

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